CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	received_535139670187226.jpeg
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	1800573.007
Medium:	Image File
Publisher:	Not stated
Country of origin:	Not stated
Language:	English
Applicant:	New Zealand Defence Force Military Police
Classification:	Objectionable.
Descriptive note:	None
Display conditions:	None
Date of entry in Register:	19 February 2019
Date of direction to issue a label:	No direction to issue a label has been issued
Date of notice of decision:	19 February 2019

Summary of reasons for decision:

The publication depicts the body part of a dead woman with text intended to be humorous. The likely injury from the availability of this image is attitudinal. It trivialises both violence against women and sexual violence. In doing so it degrades and dehumanises the victim, and by extension women more generally, to an extreme extent and degree for the amusement for the viewer. The image is clearly intended for a male audience and as such perpetuates socially harmful misogynistic attitudes. Images such as this, presented as sexual humour, are likely to create or reinforce negative attitudes to women that are harmful to society in general. The publication legitimises the idea that women have no purpose beyond sexually servicing men and the use of humour encourages these attitudes by normalising them. Therefore the Classification Office considers that the availability of this image is likely to be injurious to people of any age. While the classification of objectionable places a severe limitation on the right to freedom of expression set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, it reflects the concern of New Zealand society to limit the availability of publications that perpetuate harmful misogynistic attitudes and trivialise sexual violence and violence toward women to such an extreme degree.